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Marie, E. Berry, *War, Women, and Power: From Violence to Mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina*. Cambridge University Press, 2018. 294pp. ISBN-10: 1108416187.

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War, Women and Power is an innovative production that provides an in-depth account of the processes through which war can act as a catalyst for women's mobilization at the grassroots level. The book is a comparative study of Rwanda and Bosnia; thus, it advances that war can trigger rapid social change which reshuffles gendered-power relations through demographic, economic and cultural ways. These upheavals result in women's increased involvement in both informal and formal political capacities in Bosnia and Rwanda respectively. The compilation of tales and experiences of over 260 women uncovers the multifaceted ways in which war revamps women's lives. Aptly named, this is a bold, thorough, and exhaustive scrutiny of war, women and power. Berry's graceful and assiduous excavation of violence and mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia deserve attentive readership and rigorous scrutiny from scholars and students in order to gain insights on how war can serve as an impetus for women's mobilization.

Berry's study uses a qualitative research method which she conducted as semi-structured interviews with women from both Rwanda and Bosnia based on a stratified purposive sampling design. Through a sharp scrutiny, Berry unfolds the perplexing relationship between war and women's mobilization. In the post-war period, the political mobilization of women in both Bosnia and Rwanda complicates the popular image of women as solely victims or spoils of war. Additionally, the author employs a historical institutionalist approach where she highlights the gendered components of institutional and structural transformations during wartime. The book revolves around three parts.

Meanwhile, the first two parts on Rwanda and Bosnia respectively encompass three chapters each. The author provides a historical survey of women's status in Rwanda and Bosnia in the beginning few chapters. The historical accounts sketch out the context in which the wars took place and instance the role of prior violence in repositioning women's roles. Following this background, Berry analyzes the main structural moves triggered by the violence in each country. These chapters scrutinize the demographic, economic and cultural changes during the war period in order to pinpoint to the unique ways that war can be transformative for gendered power relations. In this respect, the author contributes to ongoing research that investigates the perplexing yet positive link between violence and political commitment by identifying the structural shifts and social processes through which this bond emerges. In the end, the author discusses the outcome of these structural shifts through evaluating how they alter women's political engagement in both formal and informal political capacities. Regardless of the disparities between the violence in Rwanda and Bosnia, several patterns emerge between the two cases.

She raises several pertinent questions regarding the lasting effects of war and how gender roles are impacted by reinstating peace. The first of her inquiries is whether

women's political mobilization has pursued in the years since the violence. While the growth in women's political participation during the recent post-war era has been noticeable, much of this progress was ultimately lost or set back. This happened for particular reasons in each case all of which were interwoven with power dynamics and instability in the post war period. The author seeks to clarify what social processes have subverted to restrict women's gains, and presents her main findings in three parts. Ultimately, the author blames both foreign and domestic efforts for reinforcing women's subordinate status in the immediate post war period.

First, the political resolution in both cases, in Rwanda and Bosnia, fractured women's organization across ethnic and class divides, and hence created new impediments to women's mobilization in political arenas. In the quest to reinforce power in the aftermath violence, political elites in both countries mobilized ethnically demarcated social groups and elevated some constituencies as those most victimized by violence. These efforts created "hierarchies of victimhood", which facilitated new social fractures and deterred the possibility for cross-cutting women's mobilization. Secondly, foreigners who arrived during the aftermath of violence aggravated these hierarchies at the expense of women because they were estranged from suitable work at the grassroots level. Lastly, during the aftermath of the wars, both Rwanda and Bosnia witnessed a regeneration of patriarchy while violence spread beyond the context of the battlefield and became entrenched in women's daily lives. The gain women made in the gender order of society was hindered by an addendum in gender-based violence.

In the concluding chapter, Berry made recommendations for future researchers to expand upon her framework to review other cases of mass violence. She stresses the pertinence and implications of her arguments not only for fields of social science research but also for policy-makers and NGOs in implementing more effective peace-building programs and women's empowerment initiatives in conflict-effect states. Finally, Berry advises those concerned with gender, peace, security, political violence, genocide and social movement to ponder on the cyclical trends of violence that prevail in the world and the relevance of comprehending war as a period of both destruction and rapid social upheavals.

Berry's study makes an important contribution to scholarship and fills a substantial gap in the literature on gender through scrutinizing both the destructive and transformative repercussions of war for women. This research vista elucidates the many ways that women in the aftermath of war have challenged the feminist truism that gender sameness is the path to gender equity (Lorber 1994; Epstein 1997; Walby 2005). Berry has skillfully drawn on previous literature as evidenced by her substantial bibliography that extends for over twenty-eight pages. The book offers an utterly novel discernment into women and war and encompasses concrete suggestions for policy makers, development organizations, and activists supporting women's rights and situation.

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